

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9729

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

MBFR VIENNA 900

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

DIA WASHDC

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BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MPOL, SOPN, SALT, UR, US

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SUBJECT: SOVIET WEEKEND PRESS ON U.S. POLICIES: NEGATIVE

SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND HAS KEPT UP ITS STRONGLY
NEGATIVE LINE ON U.S. POLICIES. SEVERAL ARTICLES, MOST IMPORTANTLY
THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL WEEK REVIEW BY SENIOR POLITICAL
COMMENTATOR, GEORGIY RATIANI, IN PRAVDA JULY 10, CONTINUED
TO DOWNGRADE SIGNIFICANCE OF B-1 DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. RATIANI TAKES FAMILIAR LINE THAT B-1 WILL CONTINUE TO BE TESTED AND DEVELOPED AND THAT THE U.S. IS STILL TRYING FOR "A CERTAIN SUPERIORITY" IN OVERALL STRATEGIC FORCE. SAME THEME IS USED IN JULY 9 PRAVDA BY TOMAS KOLESNECHENKO WRITING FROM NEW YORK CLAIMING THAT B-1 DECISION WILL NOT RESULT IN FUNDING TRANSFERS TO SOCIAL AND WELFARE PROGRAMS SINCE PENTAGON BUDGET REQUIREMENTS WILL ABSORB WHAT WOULD HAVE GONE INTO B-1. RATIANI, HOWEVER, DOES GIVE HINT TO PERCEPTIVE SOVIET READERS OF DIFFICULTIES PRESIDENT MAY HAVE FACED IN DECIDING TO HALT PRODUCTION OF B-1 WHEN HE NOTES THAT "WARLIKE MILITARISTS" AND HAWKS HAVE ATTACKED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

2. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES TASS-NEW YORK PIECE JULY 11 REPORTING FORMER PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH IN VAIL, COLORADO TO AP BROADCASTERS CALLING FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF SALT AGREEMENT. SHORT, HIGHLY SELECTIVE ITEM ENDS BY CITING FORD THAT HE DOES NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING SALT II BEFORE OCTOBER 3 DATE. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL THAT SOVIET PRESS HAS PUBLISHED FOREIGN COMMENT ON THIS MATTER WITHOUT CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT SUCH THINKING WAS NOT CORRECT ATTITUDE. END COMMENT.

3. MEANWHILE, ON OTHER U.S. POLICIES, PRESS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EQUALLY NEGATIVE. PRAVDA JULY 9 CARRIED TASS-WASHINGTON ITEM ON PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH U.S. JEWISH LEADERS AND CITES WASHINGTON POST TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT IS NOT TRULY IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AND THAT HE WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO PREVENT ONE FROM BEING FORMED. A SIMILARLY NEGATIVE STORY FROM TASS-WASHINGTON IN KRASNAYA ZVYEZDA JULY 9 ATTACKS U.S. ARMS POLICY WITH IRAN USING LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS OF U.S. PRESS QUOTES TO MAKE ITS POINTS. EVEN SOVIETSKAYA INDUSTRIYA GETS INTO THE ACT WITH AN ATTACK ON U.S. CSCE POLICY IN A SIGNED OBSERVER COLUMN --WHICH ON THIS SUBJECT IS UNUSUAL FOR THAT NEWSPAPER.

4. ABOUT THE ONLY POSITIVE NOTE STRUCK THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND IS IN STORIES REPORTING THE VISIT OF SOVIET VICE PREMIER KIRILLIN INCLUDING HIS RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO NOTICEABLE LETUP IN THE OVERWHELMINGLY NEGATIVE TONE TO SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL OR USG POLICIES IN LAST FEW DAYS; ON THE CONTRARY, THERE IS A SLIGHT INCREASE. IN SO

FAR AS AN UNDERLYING RATIONALE FOR THIS ATTITUDE HAS BEEN ARTICULATED IN OTHERWISE UNINSPIRING COMMENTARY, IT SEEMS TO BE PRESENT IN RATIANI'S CONCLUDING REMARKS IN PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK REVIEW IN WHICH HE HARKENS BACK TO THE "GREAT WORK ACHIEVED" IN RECENT YEARS DESPITE THE "IDEOLOGICAL BASIS" WHICH, HE SAYS, HAS ALWAYS MARKED U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE COMPLAINS THAT THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IS IGNORING "THE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE" OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THAT THIS IS GIVING RISE TO "ANXIETY" THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. RATIANI'S FINAL REMARK, HOWEVER, IS THE WORN-OUT OLD REFRAIN THAT THE USSR IS READY, BUT THE BALL IS IN THE U.S. COURT. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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